

Justice Puglia's opinions are marked by scholarship, common sense, clarity and eloquence, reflecting his philosophy of judicial restraint and his understanding of the proper role of the courts in a democratic society. He authored more than 4,000 opinions, of which 446 were published, including one opinion he wrote as Chief Justice pro tem of the California Supreme Court. A dynamic, innovative, collegial and respected leader and mentor, he retired from the Court of Appeal in November 1998. The Court of Appeal's library was dedicated and named in his honor in April 1999.

Justice Puglia was chosen as the recipient of Boalt Hall's Judge D. Lowell Jensen Public Service Award in 2003. The Jensen Award is given each year to a prominent Boalt Hall graduate for his or her outstanding commitment to public service in the legal field. Judge Jensen personally presented the award at a special luncheon in Sacramento.

Justice Puglia has the uncanny ability to become a quick-study expert in anything that catches his interest. Of his many hobbies, two merit mention: music and sports.

Justice Puglia loves the big bands of World War II. He maintains a large collection of their music: Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller, and Harry James. He appreciates the vocal talents of Jo Stafford, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Mercer (as much as a songwriter as a singer), Dick Haines, and Nat "King" Cole. One of his favorite singers was a British singer from World War II named Vera Lynn. She sang to British troops and was their hero.

Justice Puglia loves sports, but especially baseball. He supports his alma mater, Ohio State. In an era of many great sports heroes, he was partial to Bob Feller in baseball, Otto Graham in football, and Jerry Lucas in basketball, for their admirable characteristics both on and off the field of play.

Justice Puglia is undeviating in his commitment to ethics and civility, to playing by the rules, in sports and in life. For several years, Justice Puglia's ethics and civility have provided a beacon for young baseball and softball players in Northern California. The Sacramento River Cats, who play in the AAA Pacific Coast League, annually select the most outstanding high school baseball (boys) and softball (girls) players for Justice Robert K. Puglia Good Sportsmanship Awards. These awards are given before capacity crowds at Raley Field every August, as the baseball season wanes. Both Art Savage, president/CEO of the Sacramento River Cats, and Branch Rickey, president of the Pacific Coast League, have declared Justice Puglia is the perfect civic exemplar for Sacramento's, California's, and America's young people.

TRIBUTE TO COACH MYERS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay a special tribute to Richard J. Myers, a native son of Buffalo, New York. Richard J. Myers has devoted his entire career to the

teaching, coaching, mentoring and overall development of our youth.

Dick recently retired as an English teacher and the Head Basketball Coach for Gonzaga College High School after approximately 30 years of outstanding service. Coach Myers is credited with, among other things, taking a somewhat lackluster Gonzaga basketball program and transforming it to its current championship caliber.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of his retirement, I am proud to recognize Dick Myers' legacy. His longstanding and tireless dedication to youth education and learning is without equal. As an athletic coach at Gonzaga College High School, he is regarded as an institution and treasure.

Richard J. Myers was born in Buffalo, where a "blue collar" work ethic is the norm, and no one better personifies that strong ethic than Dick. While there is no doubt that Dick's inherent integrity, dedication to duty and commitment to community are qualities that were developed through the unselfish efforts of his parents and his family, there is little doubt that these attributes were nourished and allowed to blossom through his Jesuit education. The well-renowned teaching tradition of Jesuit educators, with a focus on the building of the "whole man" by equally focusing on mental, physical and spiritual growth, helped to lead Coach Dick Myers on his path of service to youth and his greatness as a teacher and coach.

In addition to his work ethic, Dick maintains a modest manner. He will always let you know that it was his students and athletes who made him successful. However, it is undeniable and oft-repeated by his former students and players that it was largely Dick Myer's guidance, teaching, coaching and encouragement that opened the pathway to their personal and team achievements.

Since his arrival at Gonzaga, Coach Myer's accomplishments are not only good grist for stories by sports enthusiasts of the Gonzaga community, but also can be measured in concrete and demonstrable facts. With his induction into the Gonzaga Hall of Fame on November 3, 2000, he was acclaimed as "an extraordinary man of great talent and integrity" with successes in the Gonzaga basketball program, including four WCAC championships and a DC City Title Championship. Significantly, an April 1999 Washingtonian Magazine article entitled "Real Basketball," claims that under the tutelage of Coach Myers, the Gonzaga basketball team's third victory over DeMatha in 1999 was "one of the most thrilling finishes of any sporting event in recent years."

All of Dick's accomplishments would be too numerous to mention and, as is so often the case with the contributions of successful teachers and coaches, the true milestones of their achievements are, to a large degree, immeasurable. However, Coach Myers' record-breaking mark as basketball coach at Gonzaga with a lifetime record of 714–362 provides some perspective into Dick's basketball coaching feats.

Dick Myers, an outstanding athlete in his own student days, attended Canisius High School (CHS), a Jesuit institution in Buffalo. Dick was a three sports star at CHS, and received All-Catholic Honors in both basketball

and baseball. He was also voted MVP for the Manhattan Cup Catholic League Championship game, won by CHS. In 1992, he was inducted into the CHS, Hall of Fame and was selected at the recipient of the prestigious "John F. Barnes Memorial Trophy."

He continued his academic and athletic successes at another fine Jesuit institution, LeMoyne College, in Syracuse, New York, graduating in 1964. At LeMoyne, he excelled in both basketball, helping to lead his basketball team to the NCAA playoffs in 1964, and in baseball, where his .300 batting average is still memorialized. In 1995, LeMoyne College honored Dick for his overall college level success by inducting him into the LeMoyne College Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I know I can state unequivocally that Dick's family and the people of Buffalo are proud his many and varied accomplishments. More importantly, however, it is our country that should give praise to Dick Myers, and the many other dedicated teachers, coaches and youth mentors. Often in relative anonymity, these people have unselfishly dedicated their careers to a singular purpose of making our society and this great country a better place by their positive impact on our youth—our future.

THANKING JACQUELINE AAMOT FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement at the end of January 2005, we rise to thank Ms. Jacqueline (Jackie) Aamot for her long career of outstanding service to the United States government, most recently here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Jackie began her career with the House ten years ago on January 4, 1995, and served in positions within the Administrative Counsel and Finance offices of the Chief Administrative Officer. As the Finance Office's Director of Financial Counseling, she provided financial assistance and guidance to all Member and Committee offices including monitoring and projecting available fund balances and ensuring expenditures comply with both House and Committee rules and regulations.

Jackie made significant contributions to the financial management of the U.S. House of Representatives, implementing consolidated electronic billings, which have lessened the administrative burdens both for Member and Committee offices and for the Office of Finance. In addition, she instituted more efficient processes that have resulted in the issuing of payments by the Office of Finance in less than two days following receipt of a voucher.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Jackie for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the financial management of the House. We wish Jackie many wonderful years of fulfilling her retirement dreams.